

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Bowie School Inventory Number: PG: 71B-2-7  
Address: 13022 8th Street City: Bowie Zip Code: 20720  
County: Prince George's USGS Topographic Map: Laurel  
Owner: City of Bowie Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: Lots 60-63 Tax Map Number: 29 Tax Account ID Number: 1655950  
Project: Baltimore-Washington Maglev Amtrak Agency: MTA  
Site visit by MHT staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district? \_\_\_ yes X no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district \_\_\_ yes Eligible district \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible \_\_\_ yes X no

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Form (PG: 71B-2-7); Historic Town of Bowie tour booklet

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The Bowie School is a two-story, square-shaped Colonial Revival red brick school building featuring a pyramidal roof topped by an open asphalt-sided belfry. It is five bays wide on each side and sits on a high concrete foundation. The 8th Street façade is dominated by a projecting one-story central entry with a gabled pediment and multilight wooden double doors with a common multilight transom. The windows are segmental-arched and the original six-over-six wooden sash have been replaced with modern sliding windows with large fixed transoms. A tall brick chimney rises from the north roof of the building. A two-story old addition extends from the north side of the building flush with the west wall, and has a one-story, flat-roofed extension to the west. A large, two-story, gabled modern addition of concrete, stone facing, and glass has been made on the building's north side east of the older addition, and extends to the east of the main block.

The Bowie School was built in 1912 following requests from the community for a better school building. At the time of its construction, it was one of the most substantial school buildings in the county. Each floor had four classrooms, and the four-square building plan was popular at the time. In 1925, a two-story extension was made on the north side to add an auditorium and two classrooms. A second addition to the north side of the first addition was made in 1934, adding four more classrooms, and the building was renovated at that time. The Bowie School closed in the early 1960s and was used from 1964 to 1978 as a special education center. In 1982, it was remodeled with a new addition and opened as a community center, now known as the Huntington Community Center.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

MHT Comments

CONTRIBUTES TO DISTRICT (PG: 71B-2)

Andrew Lewis ✓  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR Program

8/14/03  
Date  
8/15/03  
Date

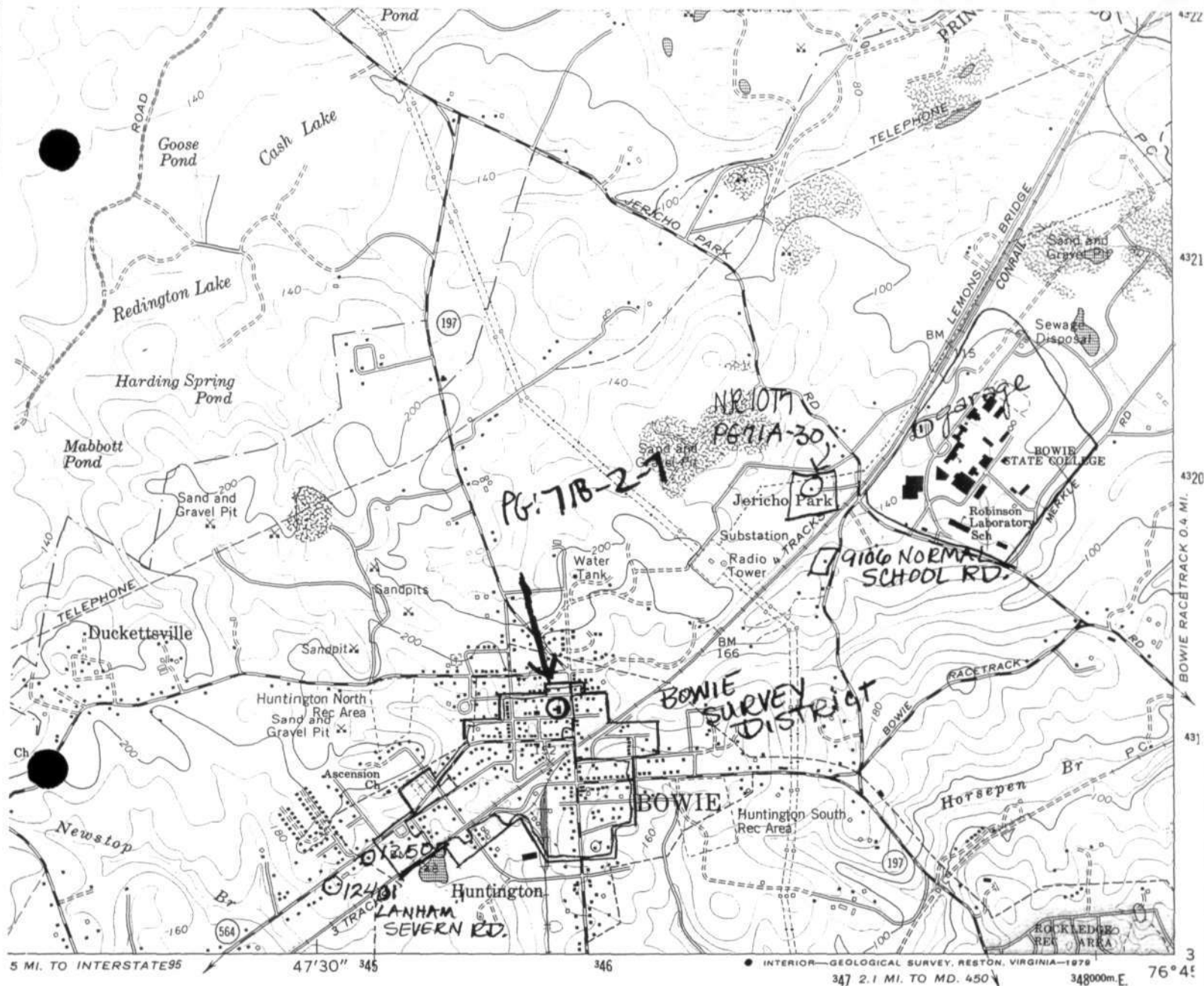
## NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Bowie SchoolPage 2

---

The Bowie School is important in the history of the town as an educational resource and gathering place for the community. However, the extensive modernization of the building in recent years and an incompatible modern addition have combined to compromise its historic integrity. Though recognizable as an early-twentieth-century school building, it lacks the distinction needed to meet NRHP criteria. It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP on an individual basis, but is a contributing element to the recommended-eligible Bowie-Huntington Survey District.

Prepared by: Kate Farnham, John Milner AssociatesDate Prepared: 10/16/2002



PG: 71B-2-7  
Bowie School



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest information available from the controlling authority

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ———— Light-duty ————  
Medium-duty ———— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U. S. Route State Route   
Interstate Route

LAUREL, MD.

N3900—W7645/7.5

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 5662 III SE—SERIES V833

N, VIRGINIA 22092  
3 IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



PG 71B-2-7

Bowie School

13022 8th Street, Bowie, Prince George's District

Prince George's Co., MD

K. Culhane

June 2002

view to west

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-7 Building Date: 1912, 1925, 1934

Building Name: Bowie School

Location: 13022 8th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Public/Community/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description

The Bowie School is a two-story square brick school building with pyramidal roof and belfry. The original school building is now five bays by five bays, with entrance into a shallow pedimented entry vestibule in the central bay of the principal south facade. Entrance is through double doors, each leaf consisting of nine panes of glass over a single molded panel, with fifteenlight transom. Double fluted pilasters frame the double door; they carry a plain frieze and molded pediment. The building originally had three bays on east and west, but windows have been added between each of these bays, on the first and second stories, making five-bay east and west facades. Exposed rafter ends punctuate the overhanging eaves. Atop the central peak of the roof is a shingled open belfry, in the form of a square cupola. Its pyramidal roof repeats the lines of the main roof, with similar overhanging eaves punctuated by exposed rafter ends. Attached to its north elevation is a six-bay two-story brick addition; farther to the north is a four-bay wide two-story addition with gable roof and 24-pane windows.

Significance

The Bowie School, although much altered in appearance by two major additions and a modern entry vestibule, is still a landmark in the town of Bowie, originally established as Hungtington. The Bowie School was constructed in 1912 in response to requests from the local population for a more substantial school building. In June 1911, five of the town's prominent citizens were appointed as a building committee for the proposed new school; nine lots were purchased at the northwest corner of 8th Street and Chestnut Avenue. The new school opened late in 1912, and was probably the most substantial school building in the County at the time. It followed the lines of the popular four-square construction: a square brick building two stories high, with four classrooms. In 1925 a two-story addition was constructed on the north, adding a stage and auditorium with two classrooms above. In 1934, a second two-story addition was constructed on the north facade of the first, adding four more classrooms. At the same time, renovation was undertaken on the original structure. In the early 1960's, the old Bowie School was closed, and, from 1964 to 1978, was used as a Special Education Center. It was renovated and opened as a Community Center in 1982. Although much altered, the structure still has the appearance of a substantial early twentieth century four-square school building. It reflects the development of education in Bowie, and is still a noticeable landmark in that turn-of-the-century railroad town.

Acreage: ca. 1/2 acre



**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. <sup>PG</sup> 71B-2-7

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowie School (School #5, District #14)

and/or common Bowie Special School

**2. Location**

street & number 13022 8th Street    not for publication

city, town Bowie    vicinity of    congressional district 5

state Md.    county Prince George's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City of Bowie

street & number 2614 Kenhill Drive telephone no.: 262-6200

city, town Bowie    state and zip code Md. 20715

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #5443

street & number Main Street folio 291

city, town Upper Marlboro    state Md.

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title None

date    federal    state    ☒ county    local

depository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #71B-2-7

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bowie School is a two-story square brick school building with pyramidal roof and belfry. It has had several large additions to the north which more than double its size; it stands on a group of original lots in the 1870 Huntington City.

The original school building is now five bays by five bays, with entrance into a shallow pedimented entry vestibule in the central bay of the principal south facade. Entrance is through double doors, each leaf consisting of nine panes of glass over a single molded panel, with fifteen-light transom. Double fluted pilasters frame the double door; they carry a plain frieze and molded pediment.

Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, with plain board sills. Original windows have a triple segmental arch in basement and first story, and double segmental arch in the second story. There is a double window over the main entrance. The building originally had only three bays on east and west, but windows have been added between each of these bays, on the first and second stories, making five-bay east and west facades. The (newer) alternating windows in the second and fourth bays of these facades are surmounted by flat arches of rowlock brick.

The foundation is of poured concrete. The brick of the elevations is laid in common bond with six courses of stretchers to each course of headers. The pyramidal roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle, and exposed rafter ends punctuate the overhanging eaves. Atop the central peak of the roof is a shingled open belfry, in the form of a square cupola. Its pyramidal roof repeats the lines of the main roof, with similar overhanging eaves punctuated by exposed rafter ends. A tall brick chimney rises from the north plane of the roof.

There are two major additions to the building. Attached to its north elevation is a six-bay two-story brick addition which now has a new front to the east. This modern bowed two-story front is of light stuccoed brick, has large modern windows, and encloses a handicap access ramp. Farther to the north is a four-bay wide two-story addition with gable roof and 24-pane windows.



# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-7

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912,1925,1934 Builder/Architect J. Howe Rawlings

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bowie School, although much altered in appearance by two major additions, and a modern entry vestibule, is still a landmark in the town of Bowie, originally established as Hungtinton. Its principle south facade retains its original appearance.

The Bowie School was constructed in 1912 in response to requests from the local population for a more substantial school building. The previous school for white children, a frame building constructed in the 1880's, still stands at the corner of 13th Street and Chestnut Avenue. (Black children attended a one-room schoolhouse just southeast of town near the top of Horsepen Hill. After 1908 and the establishment of the Maryland Normal School, now Bowie State College, many of the black children attended a model school on the college grounds.) By 1910 the town of Bowie had grown to include 100 dwellings,<sup>1</sup> and residents sought a larger, more substantial school building. In June 1911, five of the town's prominent citizens (J. W. Ryon, William Luers, Frank Luers, Dr. James Truitt and A. J. Waters) were appointed as a building committee for the proposed new school, and authorized to choose an architect and plans.<sup>2</sup> Nine lots were purchased at the northwest corner of 8th Street and Chestnut Avenue, and construction was begun in 1912. (In April of 1912, J. Howe Rawlings was selected by the Board of P.G. County School Commissioners to prepare plans for all schools to be erected after that date; it is fairly certain that it was Rawlings who planned and supervised construction of the Bowie School.<sup>2</sup>)

The new school opened late in 1912, and was probably the most substantial school building in the County at the time (cf. Brandywine School of roughly the same date). It followed the lines of the popular four-square construction, a square brick building two stories high, with four classrooms, and hip-roof with belfry centered at the peak. It served at first as an elementary school, and later as a high school.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-7

Cf. Notes Item #8

Prince George's County Deeds #5443,291; #4867:762; #82:369

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Ca. 1/2 acre Tax Map 29, Block 16, lots 61-63Quadrangle name Laurel, Section IQuadrangle scale 71-76UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting NorthingB 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting NorthingC 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate August 1986street & number c/o of Planning MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## #8 (Continued)

In 1925 a two-story addition was constructed on the north, adding a stage and auditorium with two classrooms above. In 1934, a second two-story addition was constructed on the north facade of the first, adding four more classrooms. At the same time, renovation was undertaken on the original structure; it was no doubt at this time that extra windows were added in the east and west facades.<sup>3</sup>

With the construction of the Levitt community of Belair south of Bowie in the early 1960's, the old Bowie School was closed and soon replaced by the present Bowie High School and several local elementary schools. From 1964 to 1978 the old building was used as a Special Education Center. When the Special Education Center closed in 1978, the building was slated for demolition, thus provoking a local effort to save the old landmark. This effort led to the City of Bowie obtaining federal funding to renovate the building for use as a community center. The renovation, which included the construction of a modern bowed entry vestibule, was completed in 1982.<sup>3</sup>

The Bowie School is much altered by the two northerly additions, and the entry vestibule to the east, but when viewed from the south, it still has the appearance of a substantial early twentieth century four-square school building with Colonial Revival decorative elements. It reflects the development of education in Bowie, and is still a noticeable landmark in that turn-of-the-century railroad town.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> 1910 Census for Bowie.

<sup>2</sup> Journal of Board of Prince George's County School Commissioners, Volume II (1903-1921), 1911-1913.

<sup>3</sup> Bowie Special School files, City of Bowie; interview, summer 1986, with former students.

R-R

WILLIAM T  
HUBBERT  
5373 / 083  
4 80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

LAUREL & BONIE  
RD.

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

C-C

R-55

C-C

71B-2-2

71B-2-3

71B-2-4

71B-13

I-1

NEW JERSEY  
STEEL CORP.  
5545/680

NANCY BROWN  
4182/813

R-R

71B-12

71B-11

O-S

PG. 71B-2-7





PG#71B-2-7

Bowie School  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
February 1986  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD





PG#71B-2-7

Bowie School  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
February 1986  
West elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD